

2005 Excavation Results

8.2 Trench 34

Figures: 37 and 38

Located 3.25m directly to the south of Trench 35, this trench was placed to identify any archaeological features relating to settlement found located within the interior of the inner ditch. Trench 34 was 3.00m wide by 5.75m long and 0.25m deep removal of topsoil and subsoil exposed a large area of mixed natural, containing plated bedrock, fractured bedrock and a mottled silty natural. Two archaeological features were identified and excavated.

8.2.1 Post pits

Running into the eastern edge of the trench a small sub-circular pit was located and half sectioned at right angles to the trench edge. [084] was filled by a mid-brown silty loam containing a possible post pipe 0.24 m wide, towards the western extent of the post pit, consisting of a dark brown silty fill. No archaeological dateable material was recovered from this feature.

Located towards the northern end of the trench an irregular circular post pit [082] was identified, excavated in quadrants due to the uncertain nature of the fills and the surrounding natural, and finally fully excavated. The pit, an irregularly oval in shape, with undulating sloping sides, was cut into the natural fractured bedrock and possessed an uneven base. The fills consisted predominantly of light-mid brown silty sands containing frequent small angular stone fragments consistent with re-deposited smashed sandstone.

Discussion

The two possible post pits [084] and [028] may be associated to those identified within Trench 35, however they do not appear to relate to the alignment found in Trench 35. Either because the post pits are of a different period or phase, or relate to a completely different structure. They may represent the most southerly elements of two further rows of post pits running parallel to and north of those found within Trench 35, and that together they form part of a large group or structure. Further excavation of the remaining areas within the garden could identify the components and limits of such a structure.